

ROUTINE  
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FM JCS

Egypt

INFO C I A  
WHITE HOUSE WASH DC  
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FM USDAO CAIRO EGYPT

TO DIA WASHDC  
INFO USCINCEUR VAHNINGEN GE/ECJR  
BUDAC VAHNINGEN GE  
BINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE/DCS/INT  
DIA/DACSI WASHDC  
SECRETARY WASHDC  
CIA WASHDC  
AMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL THIS [redacted]

25X1

1. EGYPT/LIBYA

2. MERSA MATRUH DECLARED A MILITARY AREA (U)

3. NA

JCS and DIA reviews completed.

4. 31 AUG 1976

5. CAIRO, 31 AUG 76

6. P - S 7, MAJ GEN SHAWKAT, DIRECTOR / MILITARY INT.

7. [redacted]

25X1

8. 31 AUG 76 12, NA

11. CIR UNREF#40218N

12. [redacted]

25X1

13. [redacted]

\*\*\*\*\* WHSR COMMENT \*\*\*\*\*

SECONCROFT, MARYLAND, LL

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14. L.R. SVENSON, JR., AG, USAF, DATT

15. (2) ON 31 AUG

AFTER A SHORT

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DISCUSSION OF THE RECENT AIRPLANE HIJACKING, MG SHAWKAT DISCUSSED THE EGYPT/LIBYA SITUATION. HE SAID THAT THE FORCES ON THE EGYPTIAN WESTERN DESERT CONSIST ONLY OF RESERVE UNITS FROM THE CAIRO AREA, AND THAT THERE ARE NO APT AND UNITS FROM THE EASTERN (READ ISRAEL) FRONT. THOSE EGYPTIAN FORCES THAT ARE LOCATED IN THE WESTERN DESERT ARE ONLY FEW IN NUMBER AND ONLY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. EGYPT, ACCORDING TO THE DNI, HAS NO INTENTION OF ATTACKING LIBYA. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, HE SAID THAT SOME AIR DEFENSE UNITS HAD BEEN MOVED WITH THE EGYPTIAN FORCES, BUT ONLY AS PROTECTION. HE SAID ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT HAVE NOT BEEN MOVED TO THE MERSA MATRUM AIRFIELD. THE LIBYANS HAVE NOT MOVED ANY FORCES TO THEIR BORDERS, BUT RATHER ARE USING AIRPLANES WITH ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS SPIES. THE LIBYANS ARE RECRUITING TRIBESMEN FROM THE AREA TO PENETRATE THE EGYPTIAN FORCES AND REPORT TO THE LIBYANS. FOR THIS REASON THE AREA, AS OF 25 AUGUST, HAS BEEN DECLARED A MILITARY AREA AND TRAVEL IN THAT AREA IS WITH PERMISSION ONLY. THE TOURIST AT MERSA MATRUM HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO REMAIN UNTIL THE END OF AUG AND AFTER THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE TOURISTS TO MERSA MATRUM. ALSO, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THE DNI STATED THAT TRAVEL TO MATRUM BY ATTACHE'S WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME AS THE ROAD IS "TOO CRUMBED". MG SHAWKAT REEMPHASIZED THAT THE FORCE ON THE EGYPTIAN WESTERN DESERT IS A DEFENSIVE FORCE AND THAT EGYPT HAS NO ATTACK INTENTIONS. ALSO, HE SAID THAT MOST OF THE FACTS WILL BE FOUND IN THE NEWSPAPER. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, GEN SHAWKAT SAID THERE ARE 230,000 EGYPTIANS NOW IN LIBYA. THEY ARE MAINLY TEACHERS, ENGINEERS, AND WORKERS. THE DISCUSSION THEN RANGED ON MILITARY ATTACHE TRAVELS IN EGYPT.

COMMENTS (C) THE BRIEFING WAS PROBABLY AN ATTEMPT TO SQUELCH THE HUMORS AMONG THE MILITARY ATTACHE CORPS THAT EGYPT IS BUILDING AN ATTACK CAPABILITY IN THE WESTERN DESERT.

GDS 31 DEC 82

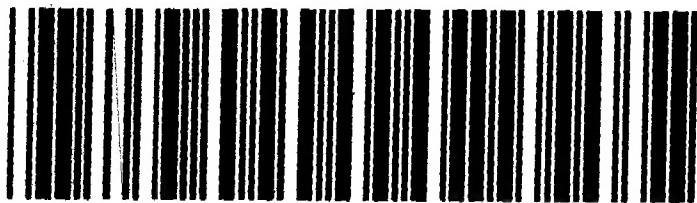
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# Document Separator Sheet

**Department of State  
DOS**



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## **DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS**

WASH 1781

AUGUST 31, 1978

## **TD AMBASSADOR EILTS**

**FROM BRENT SCONCROFT**  
**EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR FILMS**

6. SINCE THE SECRETARY IS OUT OF TOWN TODAY, I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF RESPONDING TO YOUR CABLE ABOUT HOW THE COMMUNICATION OF SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE ON LTBYA SHOULD BE HANDLED.

2. I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU SHOULD RESTRICT DAD REPORTING AND THE ADDRESSEES YOU ENUMERATE IN YOUR CABLE STEM FINE. AS I INDICATED IN MY PREVIOUS CABLE ON THIS SUBJECT, I BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY SURE WAY TO TRY TO KEEP A HANDLE ON THE REALLY SENSITIVE MATERIAL IS FOR GAMASY TO PROVIDE IT ONLY TO YOU. THAT WAY YOU CAN COMMUNICATE IT THROUGH THIS CHANNEL AND WE CAN MAINTAIN ABSOLUTE CONTROL ON DISTRIBUTION. BUT TO REITERATE MY FIRST STATEMENT, I DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN PRUDENTLY BE IN THE POSITION OF RESTRICTING THE LEGITIMATE INTELLIGENCE REPORTING OF THE DAD.

5. I AM NOT SURE WHETHER THIS HELPS YOU OR NOT. WOULD BE HAPPY  
TO DISCUSS IT FURTHER IF NEED BE.

4. WARM REGARDS,

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HYLAND, MCFARLANE, RODMAN

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